



MEDIA RELEASE

Urban Search and Rescue Drill

SANTA BARBARA, CA – December 4, 2012

The Santa Barbara City Fire Department will be hosting an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) drill Today, December 4, 2012, at the Devereux Campus property at 7900 Devereux Way in Goleta.

This drill, also known as a MOBEX (Mobilization Exercise), will allow a large number of firefighters to practice for a large-scale disaster. The scenario will be the simulation of a large earthquake causing building collapses, multiple injuries, and entrapment. Approximately 85 firefighters from 10 different fire departments from Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties will be involved in the MOBEX. Forty volunteers from the Santa Barbara City College EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) program will simulate live victims that will be searched for, rescued and treated.

In addition to the firefighters' equipment, a large crane will be on site to be used to train firefighters to work with cranes during an emergency. Search dogs will also be used to train with the live victim volunteers.

This drill will allow the media to see how firefighters from differing agencies can work together during a simulated major incident. The intent of the drill is to dispatch in real time the many agencies involved to test the dispatch systems, the readiness and response times of the rescue companies involved, and incident management capabilities.

Agencies participating include: Santa Barbara City, Santa Barbara County, Lompoc, Santa Maria, Vandenberg Fire, Montecito, Carpinteria/Summerland, Ventura City, Ventura County, and Oxnard.

An on-site PIO will be available during the hours of 10:30am and 4:30pm. This PIO will be able to answer questions about the drill, USAR programs, and the use of USAR regional teams along with response configurations to widespread incidents. PIO Ryan DiGuilio will be the contact, 805-331-5379.

The involved departments would like to thank the University of California Santa Barbara for allowing us to use the property for this drill.

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